Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 217

PAGE 01 PHNOM 01041 280226Z

84/53
ACTION EA-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-13 EUR-20 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-07 L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20
SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 UPW-01 IO-13 ACDA-19 AID-28
RSR-01 /164 W

034730

O R 271330Z MAY 70 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0923
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
PUMJRV/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 23
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION UN
CINCPAC 215
DIA WASHDC
RHMSMVA/COMUSMACV
SEVENTH AIR FORCE
RHMUABA/SEVENTH/THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 01041

CINCPAC FOR POLAD AND J-2

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Finlay DATE 10/9/80
EXCISE NEXT DATE
TS PARA, REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED X RELEASABLE X
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 01041 280226Z

JOINT STATE DEFENSE MESSAGE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR GARBLES THROUGHOUT TEXT

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN SIT REP:

1. AKP CARRIED TWO PART PRAVDA ARTICLE MAY 26, 27 WHICH PASSED TO LOCAL MEDIA BY RUSSIAN EMBASSY AND ENTITLED, "PSEUDO-REVOLUTIONAIRES UNMASKED". ARTICLE IS TYPICAL STINGING DENUNCIATION OF "ULTRAREVOLUTIONARY" CHICOM LEADERSHIP. INTERESTING POINT IS THAT CAMBODIANS DELETED TWO PARAS IN ARTICLE WHICH CONDEMN US AND ISRAELI "IMPERIALISM" AND MODIFIED ANOTHER PHRASE REFERRING TO US IMPERIALISM, TO READ "PRETENDED US IMPERIALISM" AND RUSSIANS DID NOT BALK AT THIS EDITING.

2. SIHANOUK BEING DRAWN UNDER CONTROL OF NVN? WHILE EMBOFF WAS DISCUSSING VISIT OF SIHANOUK AND ENTOURAGE WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY, DEPUTY OBSERVED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE WOULD MAKE EFFORT NOW TO GAIN CONTROL OF SIHANOUK AND FUNK. DEPUTY PREDICTED THAT NVN WOULD BEGIN TO REPLACE PRESENT FUNK CABINET WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE ORIENTED PERSONAGES AND CITED AS REASON FOR BELIEVING THIS NAME OF SON NGOC MINH WHOM HE CLAIMED WOULD BE NAMED TO FUNK SHORTLY. EMBOFF OBSERVED THAT NAME SEEMED LIKE VIETNAMESE PSEUDONYM. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE NAY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FROM ADDRESSEES RE THIS "WELL KNOWN" FIGURE.

3. ROK ADVANCE PARTY IN PHNOM PENH. EMBASSY RECEIVED CALL FROM ROK EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN SAIGON TEAK SEUN LEE WHO IN PHNOM PENH TO DIRECT REOPENING OF ROK EMBASSY. ROKS INDICATED MISSION WOULD BE OPENED IN EARLY JUNE.

4. THAI DELEGATION ARRIVES IN CAMBODIA. THAI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAPASS CHARUSATHIEN, PLUS ACCOMPANYING DELEGATION ARRIVED AT PHNOM PENH AIRPORT MAY 27. FOREIGN PRESS CORPS ANGERED BY AIRPORT GUARDS WHO REFUSED TO PERMIT THEIR ENTRY AND "WHO LEVELLED WEAPONS AT US."

5. INDIA NOT TO GIVE ARMS AID TO CAMBODIA. FBIS ITEM NOTING NEW DELHI BROADCAST MAY 26 CITES EXTAFF SPOKESMAN WHO CHARACTERIZED AS "FALSE, MALICIOUS AND MISCHIEVOUS", THE REPORT THAT INDIA ABOUT TO SHIP "CONSIDERABLE QUANTITIES OF MUNITIONS TO CAMBODIA..." SPOKESMAN MADE THIS STATEMENT WHEN HIS ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO STORY TO THIS EFFECT

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 01041 280226Z

PUBLISHED IN PAKISTAN TIMES.

6. MORE CHICOMS AID TO NVN. LE COURRIER PHOMPENHOIS MAY 27 NOTES AFP STORY ON CHICOM ANNOUNCEMENTS OF "SUPPLEMENTARY ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID FOR 1970". STORY NOTES THAT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE WILL PROBABLY BE SUBSTANTIAL AND PROBABLY PRECIPITATED BY THE EXTENSION OF HOSTILITIES INTO THE REGION.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

7. MILITARY BRIEFER MAY 27 INDICATED TWO CONTACTS IN TAKEO PROVINCE DURING MID-DAY MAY 26. FIRST AT PHUM TRAY NHOEUK (VICINITY ROUTE 3) WHERE FRIENDLY FORCES LOST 1 KILLED AND 2 WOUNDED. ENEMY LOSSES COUNTED AS 2 KILLED AND 1 CAPTURED. SECOND CONTACT AT THE PHUM KUB CROSSROADS WHERE FRIENDLY FORCES HAD NO CASUALTIES BUT KILLED 1 AND CAPTURED 3 ENEMY INCLUDING 2 WEAPONS, 22 ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES.

8. IN KOMPONG THOM PROVINCE AT 0660 MAY 26 VC/NVA MADE CONTACT WITH FRIENDLY FORCES, 15-20 KMS SOUTHEAST OF KOMPONG THOM AT SALA SROK SANTUK, VICINITY OF MAIN ROAD WEST. NO RESULTS AVAILABLE AT TIME OF BRIEFING.

9. PREY VENG PROVINCE, 1 KM NORTH OF PREY VENG TOWN ON MAY 26, CLASH RESULTED IN 2 FRIENDLY SOLDIERS KILLED PLUS 3 WEAPONS LOST. ONE CIVILIAN AND 3 ENEMY KILLED.

10. BRIEFER ALSO NOTED MORTAR AND 75 RECOILESS RIFLE ATTACK PM MAY 26 ON SVAY RIENG TOWN AT KROK KO. BRIEFER RESPONDED TO INQUIRY THAT ROAD TO SVAY RIENG WAS "RISKY".

11. LABANSIEK, RATTANAKIRI PROVINCE, MORTARED EARLY AM MAY 27 WITH FRIENDLY LOSSES 2 SOLDIERS AND 2 CIVILIANS KILLED, 17 WOUNDED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

12. MAY 27, DATT VISITED LABANSIEK AND NOTED SERIOUS TACTICAL POSITION OF FANK FORCES WHICH MUST BE RESUPPLIED BY AIR. DEFENDERS, INCLUDING 2 BNS INFANTRY AND ONE ENGINEER UNIT CONTINUE TO BE PROBED AND HARASSED. ONLY HEAVY WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO DEFENDERS ARE TWO 76MM ARTILLERY PIECES AND SEVERAL 37MM AA GUNS IN ADDITION TO 5 TANKS, SEVERAL OF WHICH INOPERATIVE, USED AS ROADBLOCKS. AS OF MAY 26, AIRSTRIP UNDER MORTAR FIRE, ENDANGERING C-47 RESUPPLY.

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Department of State TELEGRAM

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 01041 280226Z

13. SITUATION AT OTHER POINTS OF NE "TRIANGLE" EQUALLY GRAVE. LAMPHAT WAS DEFENDED BY 2 BNS AND 2-155MM ARTILLERY PEICES. TOWN UNDER CONTINUOUS PRESSURE AND DEFENDERS FATIGUED. BOKEO (BA KEV) UNDER LEAST PRESSURE OF THREE POINTS DUE TO RELATIVE PROXIMITY OF ARVN FORCES IN RVN BORDER AREAS. TOTAL DEFENDING FORCE, ONE TERRITORIAL BN AND ATTACHED COMPANY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

14. MILITARY COMMUNIQUE NOTED ONE CONTACT MAY 25 SOUTH OF TONLE BET IN KOMPONG CHAM PROVINCE. KHMER KROM FORCES PURSUED RETREATING VC, KILLING 5 AND RECOVERING A 75MM RECOILESS RIFLE AND SOME HEAVY MACHINE GUNS.

(A) IN RATTANAKIRI PROVINCE ON MAY 25, FRIENDLY PATROL 2 KNS NORTH OF LAMPHAT CONTACTED LARGE ENEMY UNIT. CONTACT BROKEN WITH UNKNOWN NUMBER OF CASUALTIES.

(B) IN KAMPOT PROVINCE, THE CITY OF KEP HELD CEREMONY MAY 25 RE-INSTALLING LOCAL GOVT AFTER REPULSE OF VC FORCES BY ARVN TROOPS.

(C) COMMUNIQUE NOTES THAT IN KANDAL PROVINCE, ENEMY COMPANY SIGHTED AT 1800 MAY 25 AT PREK PHKOAM. GROUND FORCES RELIEVED BY TAC AIR WHICH KILLED 100-150 TROOPS AND DESTROYED 3 ENEMY POSITIONS.

15. LOCAL PRESS VIEWS: FRENCH-LANGUAGE PAPER CAMBODGE CARRIES EDITORIAL MAY 27 ENTITLED "UNSCRUPULOUS CHIEF OF STATE." EDITORIAL MOCKS SIHANOUK AS "JUMPING JACK" WHO WILL BE AN UNCERTAIN PUPPET FOR CHICOMS. EDITORIAL NOTES THAT THOUGH SIHANOUK IS NOW A "MACIST" HE HAS BEEN A BITTER ANTI-COMMUNIST FOR YEARS - PARTICULARLY NOTED IS RECENT REVELATION OF WHOLESALE DISPOSAL OF COMMUNISTS. SIHANOUK ARTICLE PICKED UP BY FRENCH MAGAZINE PREUVES ENTITLED "AFTER VIETNAM, WHAT WILL BE OUR FATE" DISCUSSED. EDITORIALIST SPECULATES THAT SIHANOUK WAS IN PROCESS OF ASKING FOR US HELP WHEN HE WAS OVER-THROWN. SIHANOUK'S INCONSISTENCY NOTED WITH COMMENT THAT "US IS NOW COMPLYING WITH SIHANOUK'S WISHES AND HE ACCUSSES THEM NOW OF BEING AGGRESSORS."

16. KHMER KREACH (INDEPENDENT KHMER) NOTES SIR ROBERT THOMPSON'S OPTIMISTIC STATEMENT IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING MIL TARY SITUATION IN INDO-CHINA. PAPER ALSO NOTES VISIT OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO OF INDONESIA TO US AND HIS PLAN TO MEET WITH VP AGNEW, SENATOR FUL-

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 PHNOM 01041 280226Z

BRIGHT AND OTHER MEMBERS OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

17. LOCAL CONVERSATION DURING BREAKFAST HOUR IN PHNOM PENH CAFES CENTER ON IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW IN CAMBODIA. GENERAL REACTION SEEMED TO VIEW IT IN POSITIVE TERMS AND AS NECESSARY ACTION TO COMBAT DEFEATISM.

18. WAR REPORTING AND ACTION PHOTOS IN LOCAL PAPERS SEEM TO HAVE ENCOURAGED LOCAL POPULACE. WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS, PARTICULARLY ARVN SEEN AS DESIRABLE AFTER EMERGENCY.
RIVES

DECLASSIFIED